Construction of National Highways in Bihar

†1225. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 513 kms. of National Highways of East-West corridor under National Highway Development Project, the construction of which is yet to be taken up, is located in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that this National Highway of East-West corridor, the construction of which is being delayed unnecessarily, has importance from strategic point of view as well; and

(c) if so, the stipulated period by when Government propose to complete its construction and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The East West Corridor will provide an important communication link. There has been some delay in presentation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) due to unprecedented rains in 2004 and award of contract due to re-tendering of contracts. However, it is expected that East-West Corridor in the State of Bihar would be completed by 2008.

NH-57 in Bihar

†1226. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the National Highway No.57 in Bihar has been inducted in the National Highway Development Project and action is being taken to construct it as an East-West Corridor; and

(b) if so, its present status alongwith the details in respect of its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The complete stretch of NH-57 has been approved for upgradation of 4-lane divided carriageway as part of East-West Corridor in Bihar under National Highways Development Project to be implemented by the National Highway Authority of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.